

**US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
INITIAL POLLUTION REPORT**

I. HEADING

Date: April 5, 2001

Subject: Schaefer Salts Site, Union, Union County, New Jersey

From: Michael J. Brescio, On-Scene Coordinator *Michael J. Brescio*
Response and Prevention Branch

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Polrep: Initial One (1)

II. BACKGROUND

Site No.:	QU
Response Authority:	CERCLA
Action Memo Status:	Verbal Authorization on February 22, 2001 Signed on March 23, 2001
Delivery Order No.:	2001-0032
NPL Status	Not Proposed for NPL Status
Start Date:	February 23, 2001
State Notification:	NJDEP notified
CERCLIS ID No.:	N/A

III. Site Information

A. Incident Category: Abandoned warehousing and salt processing facility.



B. Site Description:

1. Site Description:

An abandoned salt processing and warehouses. The Site consists of eight buildings on five acres. One of the buildings is being leased by a small private trucking company. The lease money is kept by a fiscal agent appointed by the New Jersey Superior Court in a foreclosure action brought against Chas Schaefer Sons, Inc., in an escrow account. The buildings were constructed at various times from 1920 - 1982. Most of the buildings are made of concrete blocks walls and wooden roofs. The main warehouse has metal walls and ceiling. All utilities to the Site have been shut off except to the building occupied by the tenant. The entire Site is fenced and locked.

2. Description of Threat:

The primary threats posed by the abandoned containers, are that of exposure thru direct human contact, or fire. The materials are oxidizers, flammable liquids, water reactive and unknowns. These materials are stored without regard to chemical compatibility and may become unstable if mixed together.

C. Preliminary Assessment Results:

The initial assessment determined that approximately 125 containers of hazardous waste were stored in various size containers and paper bags. This assessment was restricted to the main warehouse, due to the absence of proper lighting in the other buildings. Most of the containers are in deteriorated condition and contain various quantities of hazardous materials that are either leaking, and/or crystallizing.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Situation

1. Current Situation

The EPA, START, ERRS mobed to the site on March 2, 2001, to conduct a detailed site assessment and inventory. This assessment lasted for two days and the site was demobed. This assessment consisted of surveying all eight buildings, inventorying all materials, hazcatting approximately 10% of materials found during the assessment and conducting a magnetometer survey to confirm the presence of any underground storage tanks.

2. Removal Activities to Date

- Full mobilization of equipment, supplies and personnel occurred on March 12, 2001.
- Work and equipment staging zones have been set-up.

- A container staging area was set-up in building 2 to receive hazardous waste.
- Entire facility search for hazardous materials.
- Containers that were not suitable for moving were over packed or the contents were pumped into salvage drums.
- Community Fact Sheet was passed out on April 6, 2001.
- Site attorney and one member of the Removal Action Branch went to the Union Township City Hall to review legal documents pertaining to ownership of the property.
- Administrative Record file has been started.

3. Enforcement

The site attorney and ERRD-RAB with the cooperation of Union Township are reviewing legal records from the foreclosure proceedings, site files and conducting title searches. The EPA and Union Township, will work together with any enforcement issues.

B. Planned Removal Activities

The scope of work for this removal action includes the complete removal and disposal of all hazardous materials on-site to CERCLA/RCRA approved facilities and according to the EPA off-site disposal policy.

C. Next Steps

- Continue the stabilization and staging of containers.
- Start container bulking and disposal sampling.
- Start the hazcatting of samples for bulking schemes.
- Complete the Administrative Record and send to the library.

D. Key Issues

None at this time.

V. COST INFORMATION

The following estimated costs were of April 4, 2001

	Project Ceiling	Costs to Date	Costs Remaining
ERRS	\$250,000	\$65,500	\$184,500
RST	\$ 74,000	\$21,500	\$ 11,500
Internal Costs	\$ 75,000	\$10,500	\$ 64,500
Total	\$399,000	\$97,500	\$260,500

The above are estimated costs and cannot be used in any cost recovery efforts.

